

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 20, 2010

Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton  
Secretary of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton:

The United Nations (U.N.) General Assembly begins its 65<sup>th</sup> session this week and during this session is expected to consider a resolution regarding Iran. We urge you to work to establish an independent human rights monitor for Iran, either by including language to this effect in the resolution to be considered or through a separate resolution.

You will recall that from 1984 to 2002, a U.N. human rights monitor was in place for Iran. This sustained international engagement resulted in measurable progress in Iran's human rights record, but the authority to maintain this position has not been renewed since 2002. This upcoming session of the U.N. General Assembly presents a good opportunity to ensure this issue is reconsidered and a monitor is reinstated.

In June, the Senate unanimously passed a resolution (S.Res.551) commemorating the anniversary of the disputed Iranian elections and urging the Administration to work at the U.N. to establish a mechanism for monitoring Iran's ongoing human rights violations. We believe such a monitor could help document the regime's ongoing human rights abuses; deter further human rights abuses by the Iranian government; and encourage Iran to come into compliance with its international human rights obligations.

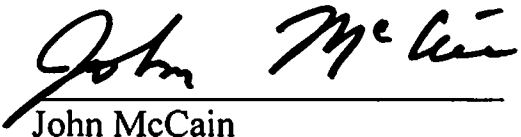
The human rights situation in Iran, as you know, continues to deteriorate with the Iranian government's ongoing campaign of systematic repression and intimidation aimed at silencing dissent. Iran's government has caused Iranians participating in peaceful demonstrations to be beaten and killed, detained thousands of innocent Iranians, tortured political and other prisoners in order to coerce false confessions,


leveled the threat of execution as an intimidation tactic, and carried out politically motivated executions. According to Human Rights Watch and a number of other human rights groups, as many as 500 Iranian political prisoners remain incarcerated. Women and religious minorities are especially targeted, including leaders of the Baha'i community who have suffered long, unjustified prison sentences. And two Americans continue to be detained in Iran without charge.

Given these ongoing tragedies and the increasing rate at which they are occurring, we urge you to press your colleagues at the U.N. next week to support the creation of an international human rights monitor for Iran. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

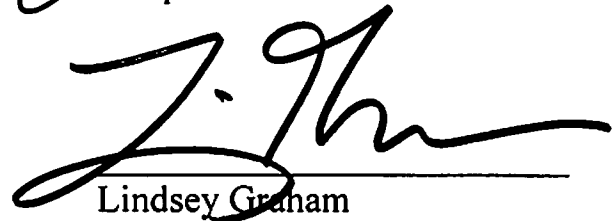
  
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Carl Levin

  
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John McCain

  
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Jon Kyl

  
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Joseph Lieberman

  
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Lindsey Graham